

Old Valley Groundwater Basin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 3-39
- County: San Luis Obispo
- Surface Area: 750 acres (1.2 square miles)

Basin Boundaries and Hydrology

The Old Valley Groundwater Basin is bounded on the south by the Pacific Ocean and on all other sides by impermeable rocks of the Jurassic to Cretaceous age Franciscan Group. The basin is drained by Cottontail and Old Creeks to the Pacific Ocean. Whale Rock Reservoir is in Old Valley. Precipitation ranges from 16 to 18 inches.

Hydrogeologic Information

Water Bearing Formations

Groundwater is found in alluvium of Holocene and Pleistocene age, which consists of sand, gravel, and clay, and ranges to 135 feet thick (DWR 1975). Groundwater is unconfined. The specific yield for the basin is estimated at 15 percent (DWR 1958).

Recharge Areas

Recharge to the basin is largely by percolation of stream flow and to a lesser extent from infiltration of precipitation and excess irrigation flow (DWR 1958).

Groundwater Level Trends

No information on groundwater level trends was found. Groundwater movement is generally southward.

Groundwater Storage

Groundwater Storage Capacity. The total storage capacity has been reported as 4,600 af (DWR 1975).

Groundwater in Storage. Unknown.

Groundwater Budget (Type C)

No information is available.

Groundwater Quality

Characterization. Analyses of groundwater from 33 wells in this basin taken during 1957 through 1993 show TDS content ranging from 346 to 2,462 mg/L.

Impairments. No information available.

Water Quality in Public Supply Wells

Constituent Group ¹	Number of wells sampled ²	Number of wells with a concentration above an MCL ³
Inorganics – Primary	1	0
Radiological	0	0
Nitrates	1	0
Pesticides	1	0
VOCs and SOCs	0	0
Inorganics – Secondary	1	0

¹ A description of each member in the constituent groups and a generalized discussion of the relevance of these groups are included in *California's Groundwater – Bulletin 118* by DWR (2003).

² Represents distinct number of wells sampled as required under DHS Title 22 program from 1994 through 2000.

³ Each well reported with a concentration above an MCL was confirmed with a second detection above an MCL. This information is intended as an indicator of the types of activities that cause contamination in a given basin. It represents the water quality at the sample location. It does not indicate the water quality delivered to the consumer. More detailed drinking water quality information can be obtained from the local water purveyor and its annual Consumer Confidence Report.

Well Production characteristics

Well yields (gal/min)		
Municipal/Irrigation	Range: to 335	Average: 200 (DWR 1958)
Total depths (ft)		
Domestic		
Municipal/Irrigation	Range: to 162	Average: 70 (DWR 1958)

Active Monitoring Data

Agency	Parameter	Number of wells /measurement frequency
Department of Health Services and cooperators	Groundwater levels	NKD
	Miscellaneous water quality	NKD
	Title 22 water quality	0

NKD: No Known Data

Basin Management

Groundwater management:

Water agencies

Public

San Luis Obispo County
Department of Public Works

Private

References Cited

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 1958. *San Luis Obispo County Investigation*. Bulletin 18. 288 p.
- _____. 1975. *Sea-Water Intrusion in California: Inventory of Coastal Ground Water Basins*. Bulletin 63-5. 394 p.

Additional References

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Southern District. 1986. *San Luis Obispo County Master Water Plan Update*.

Errata

Changes made to the basin description will be noted here.